

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

THULE AB GREENLAND PRIORITY

KEFLAVIK AB ICELAND PRIORITY

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PASS PARIS NASA EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR NASA AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) STATE 68666, (B) STATE 104636

1. SUMMARY: NASA PLANS EXTENSION OF 1975 ARCTIC EXPERIMENT PROGRAM (REF A) DURING SUMMER 1976 USING NASA CV-990 AIRCRAFT. FOUR OTHER MISSION OBJECTIVES ARE TO CONTINUE NASA GLOBAL AIR SAMPLING PROGRAM (GASP), TO PERFORM CLOUD PHYSICS STUDIES, TO OBTAIN REFERENCE DATA FOR NOAA OIL SLICK STUDY, AND TO ACQUAINT ASSESS-2 EUROPEAN SPACELAB INVESTIGATORS WITH AIRCRAFT CAPABILITY. ONBOARD INSTRUMENTATION WILL BE LARGELY DOWNWARD LOOKING. AIRCRAFT CLEARANCES REQUESTED.

2. SPECIFIC MISSION OBJECTIVES ARE:

(A) FOR ARCTIC EXPERIMENT PROGRAM REMOTE SENSING OBSERVATIONS OF SEA SURFACE CONDITIONS, ICEFIELDS OVER ARCTIC OCEAN, AND CONTINENTAL ICE SHELF OVER GREENLAND TO FURTHER DEVELOP AND VERIFY A SCANNING MULTISPECTRAL MICROWAVE RADIOMETER (SMMR) SYSTEM. FIRST USE OF SMMR ONBOARD A NASA SATELLITE PLANNED FOR 1978. OBSERVATIONS WILL BE MADE

WITH MICROWAVE, RADAR, AND INFRARED SENSORS. GREENLAND ICE SHELF EXPERIMENT CONTINUES TO BE CONDUCTED IN COOPERATION WITH PROFESSOR PREBEN GUDMANDSEN OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DENMARK.

(B) IN SUPPORT GASP PROGRAM IN SITU ATMOSPHERIC SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS WILL BE MADE OF DATA OBTAINED IN NORTHERN POLAR REGIONS OFF NORMAL AIRLINE ROUTES. MISSION WILL PROVIDE BASELINE DATA IN SUPPORT ONGOING SAMPLING FROM COMMERCIAL AIRLINES (UNITED, PAN AM, AND QANTAS) TO DETERMINE ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTANTS FROM AIRCRAFT ENGINES.

(C) OBJECTIVE NASA CLOUD PHYSICS STUDIES TO ADVANCE DEVELOPMENT OF INSTRUMENTS AND METHODS FOR FUTURE METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITES. MEASUREMENTS TO INCLUDE ALTITUDE OF CLOUD TOPS, PARTICLE DENSITY, TEMPERATURE, OPTICAL THICKNESS AND THERMODYNAMIC PHASE.

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(D) AS PART OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC AGENCY'S (NOAA'S) AIRBORNE OCEANIC BACKGROUND SURVEY FOR OIL SLICK REMOTE SENSING STUDY (OCSEAP), DATA WILL BE COLLECTED OF OCEAN AND SHORELINE SURFACES USING THERMAL IR IMAGERY AND UV PHOTOGRAPHY. OBJECTIVE IS TO OBTAIN DATA IN ABSENCE OF OIL SLICKS FOR BASELINE PURPOSES.

(E) ASSESS-2 IS JOINT NASA-ESA (EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY) SIMULATION OF SPACELAB/SHUTTLE MISSIONS USING CV-990 AIRCRAFT. PLANNING FOR MISSION TO COLOGNE, GERMANY, NOT YET FINALIZED, HOWEVER, WOULD BE TO ACQUAINT ESA INVESTIGATORS WITH AIRCRAFT, SUPPORT SYSTEMS, AND FACILITIES. NO REMOTE SENSING OR OTHER RESEARCH PLANNED DURING ESA INDOCTRINATION.

3. AIRCRAFT IS U.S. PUBLIC LAW CV-990, OWNED AND OPERATED BY NASA; CALL NUMBER NASA 712; REGISTRATION NUMBER N712NA.

4. INSTRUMENTATION WILL INCLUDE: SCANNING MULTICHANNEL MICROWAVE RADIOMETERS (5 TO 37 GHZ), IMAGING MICROWAVE RADIOMETER (19.35 GHZ), IMAGING AND NON-IMAGING RADARS, INFRARED THERMAL SCANNER, INFRARED CLOUD PHYSICS RADIO-METER, INFRARED SURFACE TEMPERATURE SENSOR, AIR SAMPLING PROBE AND ANALYZERS, AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC CAMERAS.

5. ALTITUDE OF FLIGHTS UP TO 41,000 FEET. SOME LOW ALTITUDE FLIGHTS, AT APPROXIMATELY 5,000 FEET, TO BE MADE OVER OPEN OCEAN AND ICE FIELDS.

6. PILOT WILL FILE NORMAL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT PLANS. HOWEVER, MUCH OF MISSION WILL BE FLOWN OFF NORMAL AIR ROUTES IN ORDER OBTAIN DATA OVER AREAS OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST.

7. TENTATIVE REPEAT TENTATIVE SCHEDULE IS FOR TWO WEEK MISSION APPROXIMATELY 5 - 19 JULY. EXACT SCHEDULE, FLIGHT ROUTES, AND NATURE OF OBSERVATIONS DEPENDENT DAILY SEA SURFACE AND METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS. THEREFORE, REQUEST AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FOR FOLLOWING:
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DEPART MOFFETT FIELD, CALIFORNIA; ARRIVE BANGOR, APPROX. MAINE (MAY REQUIRE OVERFLIGHT ONTARIO AND QUEBEC JULY 5 ON NORMAL AIR ROUTES DUE TO DATA FLIGHTS SCHEDULED OVER MONTANA AND NORTH DAKOTA).

DEPART NORTHEAST U.S. FOR USN BASE, KEFLAVIK, APPROX. ICELAND (OVERFLIGHT SOUTHEAST CANADA MAY BE JULY 6 REQUIRED).

STAGE TWO OBSERVATIONS FLIGHTS FROM KEFLAVIK APPROX. OVER NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, NORWEGIAN SEA, AND JULY 7- GREENLAND SEA (DEPENDENT DAILY SEA SURFACE CON- 10 DITIONS, MAY SUBSTITUTE FLIGHT OVER GREENLAND).

DEPART KEFLAVIK FOR COLOGNE, GERMANY. AIRPORT APPROX.
NOT YET DETERMINED. (MAY REQUIRE OVERFLIGHTS JULY 11
GREAT BRITAIN, IRELAND, AND NETHERLANDS).

DEPART COLOGNE; ARRIVE KEFLAVIK APPROX.
----- JULY 13

DEPART KEFLAVIK; ARRIVE THULE AB, GREENLAND APPROX.
(FLIGHT TO INCLUDE EXTENSIVE SURVEY GREENLAND JULY 14
ICE CAP; EXACT ROUTE UNDETERMINED).

DEPART THULE AB; ARRIVE EIELSON AFB, FAIRBANKS, APPROX.
ALASKA, (WILL REQUIRE OVERFLIGHT OF ICE FIELDS JULY 16
IN CANADIAN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES).

FLIGHT FROM EIELSON AFB OVER BEAUFORT SEA AND APPROX.
ARCTIC OCEAN FOR POLAR ICE FIELD STUDIES JULY 17
(MAY REQUIRE OVERFLIGHTS YUKON AND CANADIAN OR
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES). JULY 18

DEPART EIELSON AFB FOR U.S. (POSSIBLE FLIGHT APPROX.
ALONG SHORELINE OF ALASKA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA, JULY 19
CANADA, IN SUPPORT OCSEAP PROGRAM).

8. MISSION PLANS CALL FOR DATA ACQUISITION DURING ALL
FLIGHTS, INCLUDING TRANSIT FLIGHTS.
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9. RESULTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN NASA REPORTS AND
SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS. DATA ACQUIRED AVAILABLE TO COUNTRIES
OVERFLOWN ON REQUEST.

10. WHILE AT FOREIGN BASES, REPRESENTATIVES OF HOST
GOVERNMENTS AND SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES INVITED TO VISIT
AIRCRAFT AND DISCUSS OBSERVATION PROGRAM WITH MISSION
STAFF AND EXPERIMENTERS.

11. APPROXIMATELY 35 - 40 CIVILIAN PERSONNEL TO ACCOMPANY
AIRCRAFT DURING MISSION PERIOD. ALL U.S. CITIZENS EXCEPT
DANISH INVESTIGATOR GUDMANDSEN, A LEBONNESE NATIONAL
EMPLOYED AT NASA JET PROPULSION LABORATORY, AND CANADIAN
INVESTIGATOR RAMSEIER (REF PARA 15 BELOW).

12. ARRANGEMENTS FOR USE OF THULE BEING COORDINATED
THROUGH NASA/AMES AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND LIAISON
OFFICE.

13. ALTERNATE EMERGENCY BASES ARE SONDRSTROM AB,
GREENLAND, FROBISHER, CANADA, CHURCHILL, CANADA, SHANON

AIRPORT, IRELAND, PRESTWICK, SCOTLAND AND BODO, NORWAY.

14. FOR ALL ACTION POSTS: PLEASE OBTAIN NECESSARY
OVERFLIGHT, LANDING AND STAGING CLEARANCES PLUS TWO
WEEKS.

15. FOR OTTAWA: PARTICIPATION OF DR. RENE O. RAMSEIER,
CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, WILL BE ON OPPORTUNI-
TY BASIS AS FOLLOW-ON TO AIDJEX EXPERIMENT, REFTTEL A.

L6. FOR REYKJAVIK: MISSION MANAGER CONTEMPLATING ADVANCE
TRIP TO WORK OUT LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT KEFLAVIK PRIOR TO
AIRCRAFT ARRIVAL. TENTATIVE PLANNING FOR WEEK OF MAY 24
OR 31 VIA COMMERCIAL AIRLINES. ROBINSON

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